

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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EO: 11652, N/A.

TAGS: ETRD, CS.

SUBJECT: EMBARGOED COTTON TEXTILES

REF: SAN JOSE 2803

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, U.S. IMPORTS OF COSTA RICAN
TEXTILES IN CATEGORIES 51 (TROUSERS, SLACKS AND SHORTS,
NOT KNIT, WOMEN'S, GIRLS AND INFANTS) AND CATEGORY 53
(DRESSES, NOT KNIT) RESTRAINED UNDER PROVISIONS LTA
ARTICLE 3. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DO NOT RECALL
HAVING INFORMED GORT INDUSTRIES AT ANY TIME THAT CATEGORY
53 IMPORTS FROM COSTA RICA NOT SUBJECT TO RESTRAINT. ON
THE CONTRARY, THEY CLEARLY REMEMBER DETAILED DISCUSSION
OF WORKINGS TEXTILE IMPORT RESTRAINT PROGRAM WITH COSTA
RICA IN WHICH EXISTENCE OF CATEGORY 51 AND 53
RESTRAINTS SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT.

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2. HOWEVER, PROBLEM CAN BE RESOLVED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. WHILE CATEGORY 53 EMBARGOED ON JULY 6 WHEN RESTRAINT LEVEL OF 30,870 DOZEN FILLED (RESTRAINT PERIOD IS 10/1/72-9/30/73), GOCR ENTITLED INCREASE LEVEL SPECIFIED FOR CATEGORY 53 BY 5 PERCENT PROVIDED IT AGREEABLE TO CONCOMITANT REDUCTION IN LEVEL SPECIFIED FOR CATEGORY 51. A 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN CATEGORY 53 WILL RAISE RESTRAINT LEVEL TO 32,414 DOZEN, AN INCREASE OF 1,544 DOZEN WHICH ENOUGH TO COVER EMBARGOED DRESSES NOTED REFTEL. OFF-

SETTING REDUCTION REQUIRED IN LEVEL FOR CATEGORY 51 IS 3,930 DOZEN WHICH WILL REDUCE LEVEL SPECIFIED FOR THIS CATEGORY FOR CURRENT RESTRAINT YEAR (11/28/72-11/27/73) TO 13,817 DOZEN. COSTA RICA THROUGH AUGUST 2 HAS ONLY SHIPPED 2,517 DOZEN IN THIS CATEGORY AND PRESUMABLY WILL NOT SHIP CLOSE TO EVEN REDUCED LEVEL.

3. NORMALLY, REQUEST FOR SWING (5 PERCENT INCREASE) WOULD BE MADE BY GOCR EMBASSY TO DEPARTMENT. IN THIS CASE, EMBASSY REQUESTED REPLY TO FONMIN'S NOTE, REFERRING TO OUR NOTES OF OCTOBER 1, 1972 AND NOVEMBER 28, 1972 INFORMING GOCR THAT LTA ARTICLE 3 RESTRAINTS BEING PLACED ON IMPORTS OF COTTON TEXTILES IN CATEGORIES 51 AND 53, BY EXPLAINING THAT SWING BY 5 PERCENT BETWEEN RESTRAINTS PERMISSIBLE UNDER ARTICLE 3 AND THAT SWING IF REQUESTED BY GOCR WILL RESULT IN NUMBER CHANGES AS OUTLINED ABOVE. STRESS THIS WILL RESOLVE PROBLEM OF GOODS IN EMBARGO. USG WILL RAISE LEVELS TO PERMIT ENTRY EMBARGOED GOODS IMMEDIATELY UPON CONFIRMATION GOCR WISHES US TO DO SO.

4. IN REPLY PARA 3 REFTEL, CATEGORIES 51 AND 53 ONLY CURRENT RESTRAINTS WITH COSTA RICA.

BLUE JEANS FROM COSTA RICA, IF WOMEN'S, GIRLS AND INFANTS, CLASSIFIABLE AS CATEGORY 51, IF OTHER, NOT SUBJECT TO RESTRAINT. ROGERS

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